

## PROCLAMATION **BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH**MARCH 2010

**WHEREAS,** according to the National Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 1.4 million Americans sustain a traumatic brain injury each year, and 50,000 of those individuals die as a result of their injuries; and

WHEREAS, the CDC also indicates that approximately 5.3 million Americans live with disabilities resulting from brain injury, including approximately 13,000 North Dakotans; and

WHEREAS, the leading causes of brain injury are falls, motor vehicle and traffic accidents, struck by or against events, and assaults; and

WHEREAS, cases of traumatic brain injuries have been diagnosed in our military members returning from combat in Iraq and Afghanistan associated with improvised explosive devices; and

WHEREAS, the North Dakota Department of Human Services, as the lead state agency for people with brain injury, has joined with the Center for Rural Health at the University of North Dakota, the Head Injury Association of North Dakota and other programs to form the North Dakota Traumatic Brain Injury Partnership to build a system of coordinated services for individuals with brain injury and their families; and

WHEREAS, public awareness is important for the prevention of brain injuries and for enhancing the recovery process for all individuals affected by traumatic brain injuries.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim March 2010, **BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH** in the state of North Dakota.

John Hoeven

ATTEST:

Alvin A. Jaeger Secretary of State

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